

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 001356

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05

A-01 MMO-01 NSCE-00 /052 R

DRAFTED BY COM/BIC/CAGNE/RMCCAULEY:LAB

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

COM/BIC/DAS/IC:CWHOSTLER

EB/CBA:CBERLIN

NEA/RA:HMONTGOMERY

NEA/EX:JCONNOLLY (SUBS)

NEA/EGY:HFMATTHEWS

M:ESOHM (SUBS)

S/S-0 MTANNER

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O R 030126Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, AFSP, EG, GR, LE

SUBJECT: REGIONAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. THE CONTINUED DISTURBANCES IN BEIRUT, AND THE UNLIKELIHOOD THAT A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS WILL BE FOUND FOR SOME TIME, MAKE IT IMPERATIVE THAT A DECISION BE MADE REGARDING THE RELOCATION FROM BEIRUT OF THE REGIONAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (RTDO).

2. THE TEMPORARY RELOCATION TO ATHENS HAS PROVIDED SAFETY

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PAGE 02 STATE 001356

FOR OFFICERS AND FAMILIES. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT FOR

RTDO TO REMAIN EFFECTIVE FIELD OPERATION WOULD REQUIRE ITS LOCATION IN THE ARAB NEAR EAST TO SUPPORT TRADE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES THERE AND TO RETAIN ITS IDENTITY AND POSITION WITH U.S. BUSINESS AS ONE OF THE AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES OF REGIONAL MARKETING INFORMATION.

3. THE FOLLOWING FACTORS WERE CONSIDERED IN THE EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS FOR THE RTDO (NOT NECESSARILY IN PRIORITY ORDER):

DOES THE LOCATION:

(A) PROVIDE A CLEAR ARAB IDENTITY;

(B) PROVIDE ADEQUATE INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION;

(C) PROVIDE ADEQUATE INTERNATIONAL VOICE AND CABLE COMMUNICATION;

(D) PROVIDE CENTRAL LOCATION, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN MARKETS;

(E) PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE MAINSTREAM OF U.S. BUSINESS VISITORS TO THE NEAR EAST;

(F) PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY FOR RTDO OFFICERS TO ASSIST LOCAL EMBASSY IN CARRYING OUT COMMERCE/BIC ACTIVITIES AS PART OF COUNTRY COMMERCIAL PROGRAM.

4. AS THE RESULT OF THIS EVALUATION, IT IS COMMERCE'S AND STATE'S CONCLUSION THAT CAIRO WOULD OFFER THE ONLY REALISTIC LOCATION IN THE NEAR EAST IN TERMS OF THE MISSION OF THE RTDO. WE ARE AWARE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS THAT EXIST IN CAIRO, ESPECIALLY AS COMPARED TO PRE-FIGHTING BEIRUT, BUT NO OTHER LOCATION IN THE REGION MEETS A NEEDED MINIMUM OF THE CRITERIA.

5. THE MOVE TO CAIRO WOULD IMPOSE MINIMUM ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS ON YOUR EMBASSY STAFF. SUPPORT SERVICES AND ACCOMMODATIONS WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR ONLY TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 001356

OFFICERS, A FSR-3 AND A GS-14. THE RTDO IS COMPLETELY FUNDED FROM EXISTING APPROPRIATIONS, WITH THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE AMERICAN DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND THREE FSL EMPLOYEES COVERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE RTDO COULD SETTLE IN AND BEGIN FULL OPERATIONS IN 60-90 DAYS AFTER APPROVAL IS RECEIVED.

6. COMMERCE AND STATE REPS WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS

MATTER WITH AMB. EILTS DURING HIS FORTHCOMING  
CONSULTATION HERE. INGERSOLL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**To:** CAIRO  
**Type:** TE  
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